

**Amendment Transmittal Form
Land and Resource Management Plan
Thunder Basin National Grassland**

Amendment #_3_

Date: March 23, 2010

Page Numbers 1-15, 1-19, 1-23, 2-3, 2-10, and 3-16	(Number of Sheets) <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Superseded</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">New</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 map</td> </tr> </table>	Superseded	New	6	1 map
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Changes Made: Modifies Management Direction to a more site-specific implementation plan and modifies the black-footed ferret reintroduction area on Thunder Basin National Grassland, Wyoming.

The following tables identify current LRMP direction that will be deleted (left column) under this decision. This current direction will be revised or replaced in whole (right column).

Table 1: LRMP Amendment, changes from current direction

Item #	Delete:	Revise or Replace With:
#1	Chapter 1, F-21. Any net loss of suitable black-footed ferret habitat as a result of prairie dog poisoning or development of new facilities within colonies shall be replaced within the year. This is based on the amount of suitable habitat available prior to prairie dog dispersal in the year of the poisoning or development. Standard	Chapter 1, F-21 (revised). Any net loss of suitable black-footed ferret habitat as a result of development of new facilities within colonies shall be replaced within the year. This is based on the amount of suitable habitat available prior to prairie dog dispersal in the year of the development. Standard
#2	Add new	Chapter 1, F-65b (new). Adopt and implement a black-tailed prairie dog management strategy. This strategy is made a part of this plan (Appendix N). Standard

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#3	<p>Chapter 1, H-1. 1. Prohibit the use of rodenticides (grain baits) for reducing prairie dog populations to the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health and safety risks occur in the immediate area, Damage to private and public facilities, such as cemeteries and residences. Standard 	<p>Chapter 1, H-1 (revised). 1. Limit the use of rodenticides (grain baits) for reducing prairie dog populations to the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health and safety risks occur in the immediate area. Standard Damage to private and public facilities, such as cemeteries and residences. Standard On site-specific colonies where unwanted colonization onto adjacent non-federal lands is occurring and other tools are impractical, ineffective or have been proven to be unsuccessful. Guideline Colonies outside Categories 1, 2, 3, and 4 (as identified in strategy) if the Forest Service determines they are not needed for habitat for prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets or other associated species. Guideline 																																										
#4	<p>Chapter 1, H-2. Consult state-wide prairie dog conservation strategies for additional guidance on the appropriate response to complaints of unwanted prairie dog colonization on adjoining agricultural lands (private, state, and tribal lands). Guideline</p>	<p>Chapter 1, H-2 (revised). In Consultation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, determine the appropriate response to complaints of unwanted colonization on adjoining private and state lands. A spectrum of management tools will be considered based on site-specific evaluations. Guideline</p>																																										
#5	<p>Chapter 2, Broken Hills Geographic Area Management Area Prescription Allocation</p> <table> <tr> <th>Number</th><th>Prescription</th><th>Acres</th></tr> <tr> <td>1.31</td><td>Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized</td><td>6,545</td></tr> <tr> <td>2.1</td><td>Special Interest Area</td><td>14,170</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.63</td><td>Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Habitat</td><td>13,619</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.65</td><td>Rangelands with Diverse Natural-Appearing Landscapes</td><td>71,100</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.68</td><td>Big Game Range</td><td>18,426</td></tr> <tr> <td>5.12</td><td>General Forest and Rangeland</td><td>33,577</td></tr> </table> <p>As shown on the map for the LRMP, which is a part of the LRMP</p>	Number	Prescription	Acres	1.31	Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	6,545	2.1	Special Interest Area	14,170	3.63	Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Habitat	13,619	3.65	Rangelands with Diverse Natural-Appearing Landscapes	71,100	3.68	Big Game Range	18,426	5.12	General Forest and Rangeland	33,577	<p>Chapter 2, Broken Hills Geographic Area Management Area Prescription Allocation</p> <table> <tr> <th>Number</th><th>Prescription</th><th>Acres</th></tr> <tr> <td>1.31</td><td>Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized</td><td>6,545</td></tr> <tr> <td>2.1</td><td>Special Interest Area</td><td>14,170</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.63</td><td>Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Habitat</td><td>13,300</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.65</td><td>Rangelands with Diverse Natural-Appearing Landscapes</td><td>71,499</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.68</td><td>Big Game Range</td><td>18,426</td></tr> <tr> <td>5.12</td><td>General Forest and Rangeland</td><td>33,577</td></tr> </table> <p>As shown on Appendix C-map</p>	Number	Prescription	Acres	1.31	Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized	6,545	2.1	Special Interest Area	14,170	3.63	Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Habitat	13,300	3.65	Rangelands with Diverse Natural-Appearing Landscapes	71,499	3.68	Big Game Range	18,426	5.12	General Forest and Rangeland	33,577
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#7	<p>Chapter 3, Management Area 3.63, General – 1. Authorize only those uses and activities that do not reduce the suitability of the area as black-footed ferret reintroduction habitat. Standard</p>	<p>Chapter 3, Management Area 3.63, General – 1 (revised). Authorize only those uses and activities in the reintroduction area that do not reduce habitat below the level needed to support a long-term sustainable black-footed ferret population.</p> <p>Until habitat is available to support a long-term sustainable black-footed ferret population, do not authorize uses and activities that would prevent annual increases in the prairie dog population. Standard</p>																																				

Reason for Amendment:

This amendment to the *Thunder Basin National Grassland Land and Resource Management Plan, 2001 Revision (LRMP)*, would approve a full suite of tools to manage prairie dogs, modify the area of black-footed ferret reintroduction, and adjust shooting restriction boundaries on the Thunder Basin National Grassland (TBNG), Wyoming. There was a need for the diversification in management tools, adjustment of shooting restrictions and Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Habitat (Management Area 3.63) on the TBNG.

Significance of the Amendment:

The following factors are to be used when determining whether a proposed change to a forest plan is significant or not significant, based on NFMA planning requirements:

- a. **Timing:** Timing identifies when the change is to take place. The life of a Forest Plan is 10-15 years. The current Thunder Basin National Grassland (TBNG) Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) was signed and began implementation July 31, 2002. The proposed management actions that are not currently described

in the LRMP (i.e. rodenticide use) will be discussed in the Record of Decision for black-tailed prairie dog management on the Thunder Basin National Grassland. Strategy implementation would likely begin in the summer of 2010 and/or early 2011 and continue for the remainder of the Forest Plan period.

- b. Location and Size:** Location and size defines the relationship of the affected area to the overall planning area. The NFS land planning area for the Thunder Basin National Grassland is approximately 547,802 acres. The primary proposed management action in relation to the proposed changes to the LRMP involves the adjustment of MA 3.63 (Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction Habitat) and implementation of the strategy across the TBNG.
- c. Goals, Objectives, and Outputs:** The LRMP applicable goals, objectives, and outputs are reviewed to determine whether the proposed LRMP amendment alters the long-term relationships between the levels of goods and services projected by the LRMP. Changes in the LRMP are in Appendix C
- d. Management Prescription:** The management prescription is reviewed to determine if the change is for a specific situation and whether or not the change alters the desired condition of the land and resources or the anticipated goods and services to be produced. The change of acres of the Broken Hills and Cellars Rosecrans Geographic Areas from Management Area 3.65 and 5.12 Prescription Allocation, respectfully, to Management Area 3.63 Prescription Allocation is specific in nature (see Appendix C). This change in land use allocation does not change the goods or services that otherwise would be produced. Black-footed ferrets have not occupied this area. This re-allocation will not threaten the black-footed ferret population thresholds and recovery efforts, nor will it alter the current livestock grazing activities and outputs.

For the reasons listed, this amendment is considered to be a non-significant amendment.

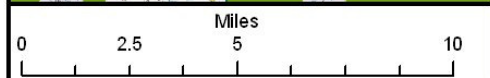
/s/ Mary H. Peterson

Mary H. Peterson
Forest Supervisor

3/23/10

Date

TBNG Plan Amendment #3 4W Category 2 Boundary Change



- Category 1 Boundary
- New Category 2 Boundary
- 1.31: Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized
- 2.1: Special Interest Area
- 2.2: Research Natural Area
- 3.63: Black Footed Ferret Reintroduction Habitat
- 3.65: Rangelands with Diverse Natural Appearing Landscapes
- 3.68: Big Game Range
- 4.32: Dispersed Recreation: High-Use
- 5.12: General Forest and Rangelands: Range Vegetation Emphasis
- 6.1: Rangeland with Broad Resource Emphasis
- 8.4: Mineral Production and Development

